



WASHOE COUNTY

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CM/ACM _____
Finance LC
DA _____
Risk Mgt. N/A
HR N/A
Other N/A

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 22, 2015

DATE: September 2, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Robert Smith, Animal Services Manager
Phone: 353-8945; email: rasmith@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Shyanne Schull, Director of Regional Animal Services
SUBJECT: **Accept and approve staff's presentation on low cost pet vaccination program for the general public and free pet assistance for seniors program. - Animal Services. (All Commission Districts)**

SUMMARY

Regional Animal Services conducted a pilot program to identify the public's need for a low cost pet vaccination program (\$10 per vaccination) and the feasibility of offering free pet vaccinations to seniors.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

As part of the Regional Animal Services reorganization, the department is focusing on outreach and community engagement. Through a community needs assessment, we have identified two resource needs for pet owners in our community: 1) the need for pet owners to have access to low cost pet vaccinations and 2) supportive pet care assistance to fixed income and homebound seniors.

In June 2015, Regional Animal Services began a pilot program, offering low cost pet vaccination clinics to the general public. These clinics have been held on the first Tuesday of each month at Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) where an average of 120 dogs and cats per clinic received vaccinations and 175 new dog licenses were issued.

AGENDA ITEM # 502

It has also been identified that some homebound and fixed income senior population are in need of supportive assistance with their pets. Regional Animal Services collaborated with Senior Services and Catholic Charities and held three free pet vaccination clinics at various senior centers this past spring. These free clinics were well attended and 200 vaccinations were given to pets. WCRAS and Senior Services have two more free pet vaccination clinics for seniors scheduled in September/October 2015.

Additionally, through the partnership with Senior Services, we aim to identify the senior population's needs for pet food, vaccinations, microchips and medical assistance for their pets and develop resources to meet those needs.

Furthermore, Regional Animal Services is in the process of creating a pet assistance program for homebound seniors. The homebound senior pet assistance program will target approximately 1,050 homebound and socially isolated seniors, currently served by Senior Services and who have limited access to pet care services. A veterinarian from the community and a WCRAS staff member will conduct home visits and provide resources such as basic pet medical care for the homebound senior's pets. Our goal is to extend the reach of animal resources and information to facilitate healthy pet retention and improve the quality of life for both pet and owner.

FISCAL IMPACT

Through the pilot program it has been identified that revenues from the low cost pet vaccination clinics will adequately cover the costs for both the low cost pet vaccination program and the free pet assistance for seniors program.

No negative budget impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept and approve the low cost vaccination program and free pet assistance for senior's program by Washoe County Regional Animal Services to provide low cost pet vaccination services to the general public and free pet assistance to seniors.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to approve the low cost vaccination program and free pet assistance for senior's program by Washoe County Regional Animal Services to provide low cost pet vaccination services to the general public and free pet assistance to seniors.”